

### **REMARKS**

The office action of June 14, 2005 has been reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-16, 18-32 and 36-42 are pending in this application. By this amendment claims 1, 17 and 33 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

#### *Allowable Subject Matter*

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 18-21 and 29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of their base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant further thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 31-32 and claims 36-39 are allowable. Further, as agreed to with Examiner Brown during a teleconference in August 2005, Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating claims 40-42 are allowable along with their allowed respective base claims.

#### *Outstanding Rejections*

Claims 1, 4-5, 9, 13-15, 17, 22, 26, 30 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Kassman. Claims 2-3, 6-8, 10-12, 16, 22-25 and 27-28 stand rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over Kassman in view of either applicant provided prior art or other cited secondary references.

Allowable claims 18, 19, 21 and 29 have been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of their base claim and any intervening claims. Note, however, that claim 19 should have depended from 17 rather than from claim 18. As such, claim 19 has been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of claims 1 and 17.

Claims 1, 17 and 33 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2, 4, 12, 13, 14 and 30 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 19 and claim 22 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 21. The remaining rejected claims, claims 3, 5-11, 15, 16, 23-28 and 30 either ultimately depend from allowable claim 19 or 21. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-16, 22-28 and 30 are allowable over the cited prior art.

Application No.: 09/921,016  
Amendment dated September 14, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of June 14, 2005

*Interview Summary mailed July 15, 2005*

In response to the Interview Summary mailed July 15, 2005, Applicants note that a summary of the interview was provided with the amendment filed March 22, 2005.

*Conclusion*

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully urged to contact applicant's undersigned representative at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated: September 14, 2005

By:



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Anthony W. Kandare  
Registration No. 48,830

1001 G Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597  
Tel: (202) 824-3000  
Fax: (202) 824-3001